

Potato Stocks



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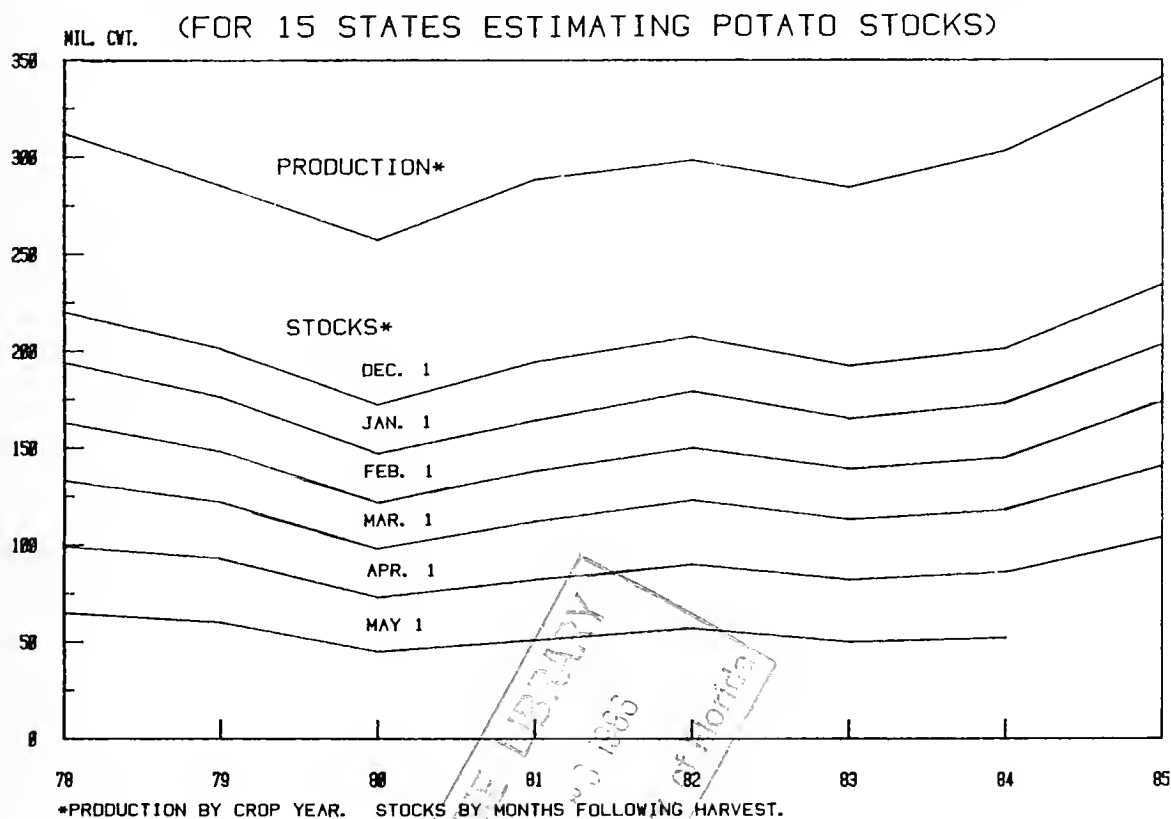
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POTATO STOCKS UP 19 PERCENT

April 1 Potato Stocks totaled an estimated 103 million cwt, up 19 percent from last year and 26 percent above two years ago. Cullage and sorting losses continue to run high in Western States, now reaching nearly two and one-half times last year's level. Stocks account for 30 percent of fall production this season compared with 28 percent a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



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* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all*
* purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other *
* losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall*
* potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 per-*
* cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
* use account for the remaining 10 percent. However, this year *
* losses are running much higher than normal. *

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

[illegible]

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1984 AND 1985 CROPS

[illegible]

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON APRIL 1, 1985 AND
APRIL 1, 1986

STATE	CROP OF 1984				CROP OF 1985			
	: TOTAL : : STOCKS : : PRODUCTION: : : : 1985 : : : 1985 : : : 1985 :		: APR 1 : : STOCKS : : AS % OF : : PRODUCTION: : : : 1985 : : : 1985 :		: TOTAL : : STOCKS : : PRODUCTION: : : : 1986 : : : 1986 :		: APR 1 : : STOCKS : : AS % OF : : PRODUCTION: : : : 1986 : : : 1986 :	
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT		1,000 CWT		PERCENT	
CALIF	7,280	1,900	26		7,878	1,500	19	
COLO	17,225	5,400	31		17,920	7,100	40	
IDAHO	86,600	34,000	39		102,515	35,000	34	
MAINE	21,360	7,300	34		27,160	10,400	38	
MICH	12,540	2,800	22		12,100	2,600	21	
MINN	13,775	4,500	33		14,145	5,300	37	
MONT	1,924	1,180	61		1,890	1,100	58	
NEBR	2,480	570	23		2,173	550	25	
N Y - L I	3,577	150	4		3,870	300	8	
- UPSTATE	6,630	900	14		6,125	600	10	
N DAK	20,615	5,100	25		23,630	7,800	33	
OHIO	2,418	100	4		2,465	40	2	
OREG	23,525	6,400	27		26,701	8,000	30	
PA	5,160	940	18		5,720	1,300	23	
WASH	56,925	11,300	20		62,370	16,200	26	
WIS	21,350	3,900	18		24,130	4,800	20	
15 STATE TOTAL	303,384	86,440	28		340,792	102,590	30	

RELIABILITY OF APRIL 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 4.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 103 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.5 percent or approximately 4.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.7 percent or approximately 7.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1976-85) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.49 million cwt, ranging from .24 million cwt to 5.26 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

The 3 EASTERN STATES stored 12.6 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1986, up 36 percent from last year and 25 percent above two year's ago. Maine stocks of 10.4 million cwt are up 42 percent. New York farmers stored 900 thousand cwt, 14 percent less than last year. Pennsylvania, at 1.30 million cwt, was up 38 percent.

CENTRAL STATES storages contained 21.1 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, a gain of 24 percent from last year and 59 percent over April 1984 stocks. North Dakota leads with 7.80 million under storage, a gain of 53 percent over last year. Minnesota with 5.30 million cwt and Wisconsin at 4.80 million cwt are next with 18 and 23 percent more potatoes than a year ago. Michigan, Nebraska, and Ohio each have fewer stocks on hand than last year.

The WESTERN STATES stored 68.9 million cwt of potatoes this month, up 14 percent from last year and 18 percent above two year's ago. After heavy sorting, Idaho storages hold 35.0 million cwt, up barely 3 percent from last year. Farmers indicate about 7.5 percent of these potatoes have frost damage and will be unusable. Colorado stocks totaled 7.10 million cwt, up 31 percent from last year. Increased size standards, frost damage, and low prices will likely lead to abandonment of as much as one-fourth of remaining stocks. Washington with 16.2 million cwt and Oregon with 8.0 million cwt show gains of 43 percent and 25 percent, respectively, from year earlier stocks. California and Montana are below last year's storage level by 21 percent and 7 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest through March in the 15 stocks States was 238 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year's 217 million cwt. Losses totaled 40.4 million cwt, up 59 percent from 25.4 million cwt a year earlier.

PROCESSING accounted for 97.3 million cwt through March, a gain of 2 percent from last season. March processing of 14.1 million cwt was 5.5 percent ahead of the 13.4 million cwt processed in March a year ago.

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